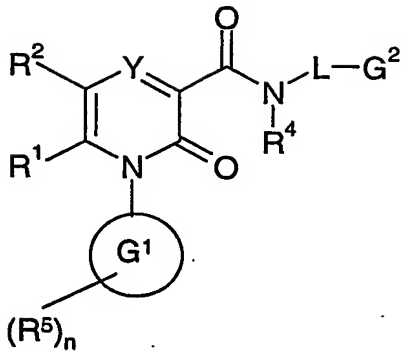
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

Y represents CR^3 or N;

R^1 represents H or C1 to 6 alkyl;

R^2 represents phenyl or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said aromatic ring being optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected independently from OH, halogen, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 alkoxy, $NR^{58}COR^{50}$, $COOR^{51}$, COR^{52}, $CONR^{53}R^{54}$ and $NR^{47}R^{48}$; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH, C1 to 6 alkoxy, CN or CO_2R^{49};

R^{47} and **R^{48}** independently represent H, C1 to 6 alkyl or C2 to 6 alkanoyl;

R^3 represents H or F;

G^1 represents phenyl or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N;

R^5 represents H, halogen, C1 to 6 alkyl, CN, C1 to 6 alkoxy, NO_2, $NR^{14}R^{15}$, C1 to 3 alkyl substituted by one or more F atoms or C1 to 3 alkoxy substituted by one or more F atoms;

R^{14} and R^{15} independently represent H or C1 to 3 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by one or more F atoms;

n represents an integer 1, 2 or 3 and when n represents 2 or 3, each R^5 group is selected independently;

R^4 represents H or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH or C1 to 6 alkoxy;

or R^4 and L are joined together such that the group $-NR^4L$ represents a 5 to 7 membered azacyclic ring optionally incorporating one further heteroatom selected from O, S and NR^{16};

L represents a bond, O, S(O)p, NR^{29} or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl optionally incorporating a heteroatom selected from O, S and NR^{16}; and said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH or OMe;

G^2 represents a monocyclic ring system selected from:

i) phenyl or phenoxy,
ii) a 5 or 6 membered heteroaromatic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N,
iii) a C3 to 6 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl, or

iv) a C4 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from O, $S(O)_p$ and NR^{17} and optionally further incorporating a carbonyl group; or

G^2 represents a bicyclic ring system in which each of the two rings is independently selected from:

i) phenyl,
ii) a 5 or 6 membered heteroaromatic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N,
iii) a C3 to 6 saturated or partially unsaturated cycloalkyl, or
iv) a C4 to 7 saturated or partially unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from O, $S(O)_p$ and NR^{17} and optionally further incorporating a carbonyl group;

and the two rings are either fused together, or are bonded directly together or are separated by a linker group selected from O, $S(O)_q$ or CH_2,

said monocyclic or bicyclic ring system being optionally further substituted by one to three substituents independently selected from CN, OH, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 alkoxy, halogen, $NR^{18}R^{19}$, NO_2, OSO_2R^{38}, CO_2R^{20}, $C(=NH)NH_2$, $C(O)NR^{21}R^{22}$, $C(S)NR^{23}R^{24}$, $SC(=NH)NH_2$, $NR^{31}C(=NH)NH_2$, $S(O)_sR^{25}$, $SO_2NR^{26}R^{27}$, C1 to 3 alkoxy substituted by one or more F atoms and C1 to 3 alkyl substituted by SO_2R^{39}, $NR^{56}R^{57}$ or by one or more F atoms;

or

when L does not represent an bond, G^2 may also represent H;

At each occurrence, **p, q, s** and **t** independently represent an integer 0, 1 or 2;

R^{18} and R^{19} independently represent H, C1 to 6 alkyl, formyl, C2 to 6 alkanoyl, $S(O)_tR^{32}$ or $SO_2NR^{33}R^{34}$; said alkyl group being optionally further substituted by halogen, CN, C1 to 4 alkoxy or $CONR^{41}R^{42}$;

R^{25} represents H, C1 to 6 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl; said alkyl group being optionally further substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from OH, CN, $CONR^{35}R^{36}$, CO_2R^{37}, $OCOR^{40}$, C3 to 6 cycloalkyl, a C4 to 7 saturated heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from O, $S(O)_p$ and NR^{43} and phenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heteroaromatic ring containing one to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said aromatic ring being optionally further substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, CN, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, OH, $CONR^{44}R^{45}$, CO_2R^{46}, $S(O)_sR^{55}$ and $NHCOCH_3$;

R^{32} represents H, C1 to 6 alkyl or C3 to 6 cycloalkyl;

R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{29}, R^{31}, R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35}, R^{36}, R^{37}, R^{38}, R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{41}, R^{42}, R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51}, R^{52}, R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56}, R^{57} and R^{58} independently represent H or C1 to 6 alkyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, wherein Y represents CR^3.

3. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein G^1 represents phenyl.

4. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein R^5 represents Cl, CH_3, CN or CF_3.

5. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

6. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

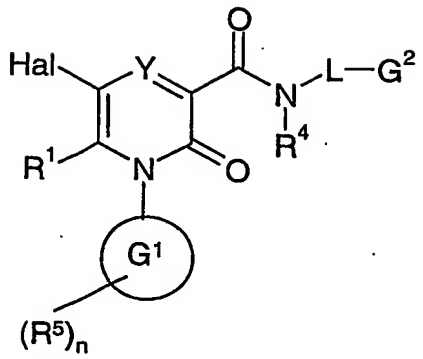
7. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, a human disease or condition in which inhibition of neutrophil elastase activity is beneficial which comprises administering to a person suffering from or susceptible to such a disease or condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of neutrophil elastase activity is beneficial.

9. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory diseases or conditions.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, and optical isomers, racemates and tautomers thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, which comprises:

a) reacting a compound of formula (II)

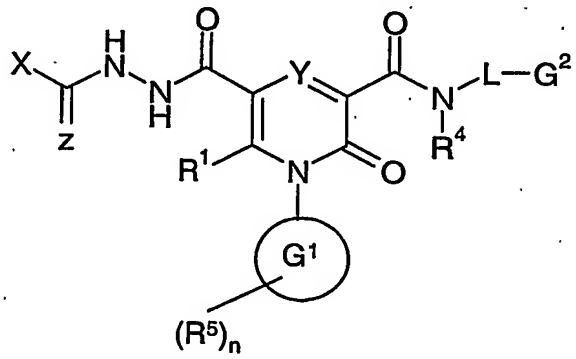


(II)

wherein R^1, R^4, R^5, Y, G^1, G^2, L and n are as defined in formula (I) and Hal represents a halogen atom, preferably bromo or iodo;

with a nucleophile R^2-M wherein R^2 is as defined in formula (I) and M represents an organo-tin or organo boronic acid group; or

b) when R^2 represents a 1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl or a 1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl ring, reacting a compound of formula (III)

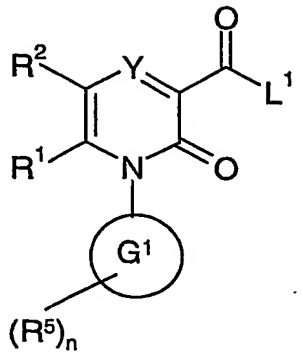


(III)

wherein R^1, R^4, R^5, Y, G^1, G^2, L and n are as defined in formula (I), Z represents O or S and X represents C1 to 6 alkyl or $NR^{47}R^{48}$ and R^{47} and R^{48} are as defined in formula (I);

with a suitable dehydrating agent such as phosphoryl chloride or trimethylsilyl polyphosphate; or

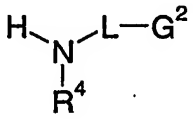
c) reacting a compound of formula (XV)



(XV)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^5, n, G^1 and Y are as defined in formula (I) and L^1 represents a leaving group,

with a compound of formula (IX) or a salt thereof



(IX)

wherein R^4, G^2 and L are as defined in formula (I);

and where desired or necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.